

Labour Force, August 2019

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 19 September 2019, 11:30 am AEST.

Note: As noted by the ABS, trend estimates provide the best measure of state level labour market conditions.

Key data (trend)

Employment:	Queensland,	↑	4,900	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	22,000	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑	2,300	(6.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑	2,700	(5.3%)
Labour Force:	Queensland,	↑	7,100	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	24,600	(0.2%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	↓	600	(8.6%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑	6,200	(8.5%)

Main findings – Trend estimates

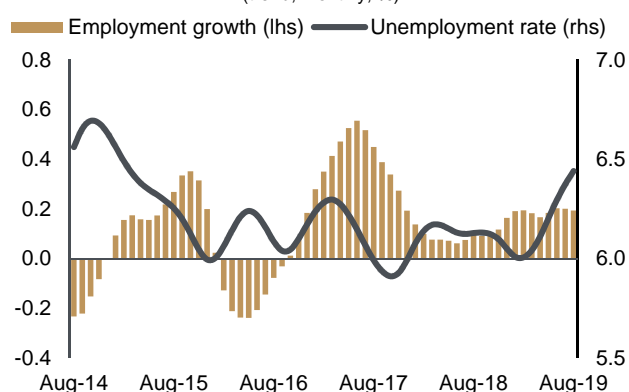
Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 4,900 persons) in August 2019, reflecting a rise in full-time employment (up 5,200 persons), while part-time employment fell slightly (down 300 persons). Employment growth over the year was solid at 2.0% (or 49,500 persons), driven almost entirely by a rise in full-time employment (up 49,100 persons).

Consistent with solid employment growth, Queensland's trend participation rate has increased over the past year, up 0.2%-point to 66.0% in August 2019.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate has moved higher recently, to 6.4% in August 2019, up from 6.1% a year earlier (Chart 1). This in part reflects increased participation amid solid employment growth. Meanwhile, the trend underemployment rate was also unchanged in August at 8.6%, only slightly above the national rate (8.5%).

Chart 1: Employment growth and unemployment rate, Queensland

(trend, monthly, %)



Nationally, trend employment rose 22,000 persons (up 0.2%) in August, to be 2.5% higher over the year. New South Wales (up 133,700) and Victoria (up 106,200) were the largest contributors to the 313,600 person rise in employment nationally over the past year (Table 2).

The national trend unemployment rate was 5.3% in August 2019, up from 5.2% in July. Further, the national trend participation rate rose to 66.2% in August, the highest rate recorded nationally since the ABS monthly labour force series began in 1978.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland fell 7,200 persons in August, driven by a fall in part-time employment (15,500 persons). Meanwhile, full-time employment was up 8,300 persons in the month. Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 1.3% (or 33,500 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.4% in August, but was up from 6.3% a year earlier. Queensland's sa participation rate fell 0.3 percentage point to 65.8% in August.

Nationally, sa employment rose 34,700 persons in the month, driven by a strong increase in part-time employment. The sa unemployment rate rose to 5.3%, from 5.2% in July.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, August 2019

	Queensland				Australia					
	Aug-19 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	Aug-19 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000		
Trend										
Employed	2,533.4	4.9	0.2	49.5	2.0	12,921.1	22.0	0.2	313.6	2.5
Full-time	1,751.9	5.2	0.3	49.1	2.9	8,828.4	7.2	0.1	203.8	2.4
Part-time	781.5	-0.3	0.0	0.4	0.1	4,092.7	14.7	0.4	109.8	2.8
Unemployed	174.4	2.3	1.3	12.2	7.5	715.7	2.7	0.4	22.2	3.2
Underemployed	231.7	-0.6	-0.3	-4.8	-2.0	1,159.4	6.2	0.5	48.5	4.4
Labour force	2,707.8	7.1	0.3	61.7	2.3	13,636.7	24.6	0.2	335.8	2.5
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,526.7	-7.2	-0.3	33.5	1.3	12,926.9	34.7	0.3	310.7	2.5
Full-time	1,752.0	8.3	0.5	40.9	2.4	8,818.0	-15.5	-0.2	186.7	2.2
Part-time	774.7	-15.5	-2.0	-7.5	-1.0	4,108.9	50.2	1.2	124.0	3.1
Unemployed	171.5	-0.7	-0.4	2.9	1.7	716.8	4.1	0.6	15.5	2.2
Underemployed	228.2	-2.5	-1.1	-3.2	-1.4	1,167.3	21.5	1.9	74.8	6.8
Labour force	2,698.2	-7.9	-0.3	36.4	1.4	13,643.7	38.8	0.3	326.2	2.4
Trend	Aug-19	Jul-19	Aug-18		Aug-19	Jul-19	Aug-18			
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.4	6.1		5.3	5.2	5.2			
Underemployment rate	8.6	8.6	8.9		8.5	8.5	8.4			
Participation rate	66.0	65.9	65.7		66.2	66.1	65.6			
Seas. Adjusted										
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.4	6.3		5.3	5.2	5.3			
Underemployment rate	8.5	8.5	8.7		8.6	8.4	8.2			
Participation rate	65.8	66.1	66.1		66.2	66.1	65.6			

Table 2: Interstate comparison, August 2019

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	4,900	10,600	7,500	200	3,200	400	22,000
% change on a year ago	2.0	3.3	3.2	1.5	1.3	-0.5	2.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	49,500	133,700	106,200	12,900	16,900	-1,400	313,600
Unemployment rate (trend)							
August-19	6.4	4.5	4.9	6.8	5.8	6.6	5.3
July-19	6.4	4.5	4.8	6.6	5.9	6.6	5.2
August-18	6.1	4.7	4.7	5.5	6.2	5.9	5.2
Participation rate (trend)							
August-19	66.0	66.1	66.2	63.7	68.4	60.2	66.2
July-19	65.9	66.0	66.2	63.6	68.4	60.2	66.1
August-18	65.7	65.0	65.6	62.5	68.5	61.0	65.6
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.3	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.3
Change on a month ago (no.)	-7,200	16,700	20,300	1,400	3,600	-100	34,700
% change on a year ago	1.3	3.1	3.6	1.8	1.4	-0.6	2.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	33,500	126,800	117,600	15,500	18,500	-1,600	310,700
Unemployment rate (sa)							
August-19	6.4	4.3	4.9	7.3	5.8	6.4	5.3
July-19	6.4	4.4	4.8	6.9	5.9	6.0	5.2
August-18	6.3	4.6	4.7	5.6	6.4	5.9	5.3
Participation rate (sa)							
August-19	65.8	65.9	66.4	63.9	68.5	60.2	66.2
July-19	66.1	65.9	66.1	63.6	68.4	60.0	66.1
August-18	66.1	65.1	65.4	62.2	68.7	61.0	65.6